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REMINISCENCES OF A SOLDIER'S WIFE. By MRS. JOHN A. LOGAN. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1913.

Mrs. Logan's spirited narrative, with its pleasant and justifiable exaltation of times past, is remarkable in that it not only tells of heroic service at the front, but in greater degree than most military memoirs fills in the social and political background. Nothing could be more appealing than the description, contained in the opening chapters, of ante-bellum life in southern Illinois. The features of the time are familiar to us in a general way; but the picture has its characteristic touches, and it is drawn with a vividness of detail and an aliveness of feeling that are rare. Mrs. Logan has relived both this part of her life and her Civil War experiences with singular actuality. Here is none of that flatness of perspective so common in memories of the distant past, nor do we experience any effect of the otiose pleasure reminiscence often takes in fingering over old facts from which the keen edge of feeling has worn away. The events of the story have remained of passionate interest to the narrator, who seems prepared to do again what she has done in the past. A woman of the old school, unpretentiously telling her story, speaks to us of to-day in stronger, more thrilling tones than are often heard.

In an unusual degree Mrs. Logan shared in the plans and thoughts of her husband throughout his active and stressful career—searching out legal precedents for him when he was prosecuting attorney, keeping in touch with politics and the sentiments of the people, playing the onerous part of wife to a man of influence in a small pioneer community, and later assuming the more complicated duties of a Representative's wife in Washington, all with unfailing zest and American adaptability. Southern Illinois was a place of dramatic interest in the days immediately preceding the outbreak of hostilities, for nowhere was the popular temper more doubtful than here on the borderland of the Confederacy. Mrs. Logan's eldest brother, yielding to an impulse to follow the fate of his college chums who lived South, joined the Confederate army. General Logan himself was a friend and follower of Douglas, and thus Mrs. Logan first saw Lincoln through the eyes of an opponent—a fact which intensifies the interest of her first impressions of him. "His awkwardness," she writes, "has not been exaggerated, but it gave no effect of self-consciousness. There was something about his ungainliness and about his homely face, even in a State of tall and ungainly men, which would have made any one who simply passed him in the street, or saw him sitting on a platform, remember him. 'There ain't no one else, and there never was any one jist like Abe Lincoln,' as an old farmer said. . . . Douglas won your personal support by the magnetism of his personality. Lincoln did not seem to have any magnetism, though of course he had the rarest and most precious kind. He seemed able to brush away all irrelevant matters of discussion and to be earnestly and simply logical. In fact, he had the faculty of carrying conviction. At a time when the practice of oratory as an art was the rule he was without affectation. The ungainly form, the bony face, the strong, sensitive mouth, the quiet, sad, and kindly eyes, were taking you out of yourself into unselfish counsel." Lincoln's logic weakened General Logan's faith in the doctrines of the Democratic party, he began to doubt the force of Douglas's arguments, and the firing on Fort Sumter made him realize that thenceforth a man must be for his country or

against it. Resigning his seat in Congress, he returned to Illinois to exert his influence for the Union. How the people waited for him, how he came and addressed them, how he carried them with him and raised the first company of the famous Thirty-first on the spot—all this makes a thrilling story. A day had been fixed on which General Logan was to speak at Marion; but failure to make a railroad connection delayed him. Mrs. Logan, who drove to Marion from Carbondale to explain her husband's non-arrival, was stopped before she reached the center of the square by men who gathered round the buggy and eagerly cried out: "Where is Logan?" "What is the matter?" "What does this mean?" "We have got to know all about this business." The tone was in some cases threatening; mob violence was feared; but when Logan faced the people he swayed them as a born leader.

From the beginning of the war, Cairo, Illinois, became, of course, a point of strategic importance. Mrs. Logan was thus in the rear of and closely in touch with one of the greatest campaigns. She knew the common soldiers, saw the wounded brought home, went to nurse her wounded husband at the front, sheltered an escaped slave, experienced the hostility of Southern sympathizers, felt and did and knew nearly all that was possible for a woman in those times. Belmont, Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, Vicksburg, Resaca and Dallas, Kenesaw Mountain, and Atlanta, where General Logan, after McPherson's death, won the day against heavy odds—these are some of the battles that were poignant events in her life. The appointment of General O. O. Howard instead of General Logan to command the Army of Tennessee is discussed with restraint. Testimony is adduced to show that General Sherman was strongly influenced in this matter by General Thomas, who professed himself unable to get on with Logan, while in contrast is told the story of how Logan, ordered by Grant to supersede Thomas, sent a staff officer to induce Thomas to make the attack which resulted in the rout of Hood's army. No unfriendly feeling remained between Sherman and Logan, but the impression is left that this was due quite as much to Logan's magnanimity as to Sherman's fairness.

The latter half of the *Reminiscences*, is more journal-like in form than the first, and the grip on affairs seems less strong. There is, however, much good anecdote, discussion of notables, and picturing of social life. Because of their historic and personal interest and the strong note of character in them these memoirs deserve to be read by many.

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READINGS IN AMERICAN HISTORY. EDITED BY JAMES ALTON JAMES.  
New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1914.

The value of collateral reading in the teaching of many different subjects, and especially in livening and broadening the bare narratives of school histories, is generally recognized, but will bear emphasis. It is not only by adding color to facts or by breaking up the habit of mere memorizing that readings in the original sources of history do good. Such readings give actuality both to the historic narrative and to the subject itself. They give the pupil a proper conception of the materials of which history is made and lead him instinctively to try to form his own conclusions. For interest in such a subject, moreover, it is almost essential that the student should have a store of subconscious ideas, not memorized